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NEWS

Planning Board refines MBTA zones

JOYCE WESTNER | STAFF WRITER

January 10, 2024 . 3:46 PM — 2 min read

It was a busy night for the Planning Board Tuesday night with the Waterfield design, affordable housing and state zoning on the agenda. The board voted to remove one area from the state-required rezoning near MBTA stations.

Planner Taylor Herman told the board Jan. 9 the discussion would be limited to which districts to use for the required land area of 37 acres. New zoning regulations would allow 15 units per acre by right.

Several acres along Cambridge Street, from Mahoney's to Bonnell Ford, were eliminated from the total. But the board voted to keep the areas near the Parkview apartments and near Wedge Pond, which includes public housing and private condominiums.

The board was unable to decide on the Ginn Road area, where several members pointed out houses were originally built as small and affordable.

I-Ching Scott said some owners are turning them into larger hous
rezoning them would allow owners to use the same square footag
multi-family properties.

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Because the board couldn't agree and because other areas need to be voted on, Chair Diab Jerius suggested they meet again on Jan. 16.

Meet the intern

Herman introduced his new intern to the board.

"Griffin O'Neill is a Northeastern University Coop student, who will be working with the Winchester Planning Board and Planning Department through the end of June," he told the News. "Griffin is pursuing his Master of Science in Urban Planning & Policy and has recently returned from Amsterdam, where he spent a semester abroad learning about the planning practices and policies of European cities.

"Griffin will primarily be assisting the Planning Board bring MBTA 3A to Spring Town Meeting, and will lend a helping hand with Master Plan implementation, the Housing Production Plan, and Economic Development," he finished.

Affordable housing

The board also welcomed a group of high school students who've investigated affordable housing in town. Carson Sarpong, Selina Nguyen, Isabella Castro and Grady Trent gave a presentation, explaining how an affordable housing increase would benefit the residents.

Sarpong said it would increase diversity in town. Right now, he said, "Winchester High School has only 29 Black students, and eight of those are in the ABC program."

Board member Sally Dale thanked students and reminded them run for public office once they're 18 years old.

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Waterfield lot

The meeting also included comments on the Waterfield lot plans by design peer reviewer Dennis Carlone who had a lot to say, including his concern that the building doesn't clearly differentiate between private and public spaces, especially in terms of access to the commuter rail station.

He questioned whether it's supposed to be "an MBTA entry courtyard vs. a private alley."

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Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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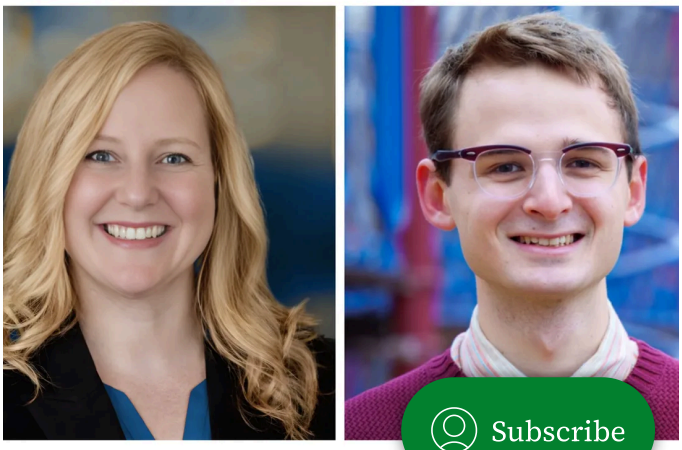

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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